

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 291343Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5626

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10160

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EG, US, IS

SUBJECT: BIDS ON SINAI ACREAGE

REF: (A) CAIRO 834, (B) CAIRO 5561, (C) CAIRO A-61

1. IBRAHIM RADWAN, DIRECTOR, AGREEMENTS SECTION, EGPC, HAS INFORMED US THAT ON JULY 22 EGPC FORMALLY DISPATCHED INVITATIONS FOR BIDS FOR EXPLORATION/PRODUCTION RIGHTS IN 12 BLOCKS IN SINAI PENINSULA. SIX BLOCKS ARE IMMEDIATELY EAST OF SUEZ CANAL AND SIX ARE IN MEDITERRANEAN JUST NORTH OF THE ONSHORE BLOCKS. INVITATIONS SENT INTERNATIONALLY TO ALL USUAL RECIPIENTS OF SUCH NOTICES. BIDS TO BE SUBMITTED BY END OF OCTOBER, 1976. MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF INVITATION IS THAT IT APPARENTLY INCLUDES AREA IN THE BUFFER ZONE AS WELL AS AREA UNDER EGYPTIAN CONTROL. EMBASSY TRANSMITTING VIA AIRGRAM COPY OF INVITATION WITH MAP SHOWING EXACT LOCATION OF 12 BLOCKS.

2. COMMENT. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, RADWAN EXPECTS BRISK COMPLETION FOR EXPLORATION/PRODUCTION RIGHTS IN SINAI BECAUSE AREA HAS BEEN TOTALLY UNAVAILABLE SINCE NEW SEISMIC TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPED. FACT THAT EGPC HAS CHOSEN TO NEGOTIATE OVER AREA BOTH WEST OF, AND IN, BUFFER ZONE IS BIT SURPRISING SINCE MINISTER HILAL AND EGPC CHAIRMAN LEITHY HAVE HERETOFORE WANTED TO AVOID THORNY PROBLEM OF ACCESS TO BUFFER ZONE. RADWAN HAS BEEN MAJOR PROPONENT OF USING ESCAPE CLAUSE CONTAINING LANGUAGE TO THE EFFECT THAT ACCESS
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TO BUFFER ZONE AREA NOT GRANTED UNTIL POLITICAL CONDITIONS

PERMIT (SEE REF C), IN ORDER CAPITALIZE ON COMPANIES'
CURRENT HIGH INTEREST. RADWAN NOW APPEARS TO HAVE CONVINCED
HIS SUPERIORS ON THIS COURSE OF ACTION. HE PROMISED TO KEEP
US INFORMED OF BIDS RECEIVED.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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